

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Good for Man and Beast

Just about the same techniques of medicine are used in treating sick horse or dog as help to cure human ills. Anesthesia now important for sick animals.

► IF YOU were a sick horse or an ailing dog, you'd probably be treated with essentially the same techniques that medical doctors use on human patients.

Dr. O. H. Siegmund, of the school of veterinary science, University of California College of Agriculture, compares the practice of medicine on human beings and other animals.

The use of anesthesia, which enables doctors to perform otherwise impossible surgery on humans, plays an important part in saving the lives of many valuable farm animals and pets.

Giving anesthesia for treatments causing pain is now routine in animal cases. General anesthesia is given by injection into veins or by gas inhalation.

Spinal anesthetics and drugs producing nerve blocks are used in many cases. The drugs, introduced in the immediate vicinity of the nerve affected, destroy sensation in localized areas—an aid of great value to animal surgery.

Cows frequently swallow dangerous objects such as nails, which may penetrate the walls of one of their stomachs and cause death. With the nerve block, these deadly objects may be removed while the animals remain standing unrestrained and insensible to pain. Injured tissues are repaired or necessary operations performed without further injury to the animals and in most cases full recovery is the result.

Like small children, animals are not always cooperative when distasteful medicines are prescribed. Whenever possible, drugs

are mixed with feed (the castor oil in orange juice treatment) so that the animals swallow them without knowing it.

But when the disagreeable taste of a drug cannot be disguised it is fed through a stomach tube. This method is painless and it guarantees ingestion of the drug into the animal's system.

Similar to human cases, when it is necessary for drugs to begin action immediately, some medicines are given by intravenous injection. This method is particularly valuable in emergencies when large quantities of drugs must be administered. Blood transfusions—often necessary to save life—are made by this means.

Penicillin is usually injected deep in the muscles, just as in human patients. Here it is slowly absorbed over long periods, eliminating the need for frequent injections.

Large amounts of liquid are sometimes given by injection to sick animals that have become dehydrated by refusal to drink during illness. And recent advancement in animal treatment has been the use of soluble sulfa drugs in solutions which can be injected even into the interior of the abdominal cavity.

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"*Persian lamb*" pelts and the so-called Karakul skins come from Afghanistan, Iran and Southwest Africa.

Wild *rabbits* are heavy breeders but only about 20% of the young born each spring and summer live to reach the late fall hunting season.

● RADIO

Saturday, January 13, 1951, 3:15 p.m., EST

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Paul C. Mangelsdorf, geneticist of Harvard University, will discuss "Hybrid Corn Helps Feed the World."

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